

Remarks

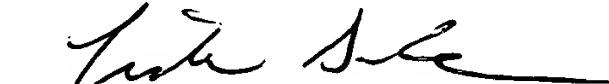
Claims 16-18, 24, and 25 are pending. By the above amendment, non-elected claims 1-15 and 19-23 have been canceled. Minor informalities in claims 16 and 17 have been corrected. Dependent claims 24 and 25 have been added to provide additional coverage for preferred embodiments, as supported in the original disclosure by, e.g., Figs. 1B and 4B and original claim 13.

In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner set forth a requirement under 35 U.S.C. § 121 restricting Applicant to one of the following inventions: (I) claims 1-11 and 15; (II) claims 12 and 13; (III) claim 14; (IV) claims 16-18; (V) claims 19, 20, and 22; (VI) claim 21; and (VII) claim 23. Applicant hereby elects Group IV, claims 16-18, directed to methods for testing compounds for modulation of proteolytic activity. This election is without traverse with respect to the restriction requirement between the elected group and the other groups. Consequently, the claims from the non-elected groups have been canceled by the above amendment, without prejudice or disclaimer to the right to pursue such claims in one or more divisional applications.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests prompt action on the merits of the elected claims of Group IV.

Respectfully submitted,

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